

Screening and Immunization Requirements

INTRODUCTION

All students accepted into the Master of Science: Physician Assistant (MSPA) Program must complete the required screening tests and immunizations prior to matriculation and maintain compliance throughout enrollment. Students are responsible for ensuring all requirements remain current at all times. Clinical sites may impose additional requirements not listed here, which students will be expected to complete. Failure to maintain compliance may result in the inability to participate in didactic or clinical activities, a delay in program progression, or referral to the Physician Assistant Student Progress Committee (PA SPC).

AT-A-GLANCE

Requirement	Time Frame
Tuberculosis (TB) Screening	Annual
Hepatitis B Titer	Every 5 years
Measles, Mumps, Rubella (MMR) Titers	Every 5 years
Varicella (Chickenpox) Titer	Every 5 years
Tetanus, Diphtheria, and Pertussis (Tdap) Vaccine	Every 10 years
Influenza Vaccine	Annual
COVID Vaccine	Annual

Required Screenings

TUBERCULOSIS (TB) SCREENING

Time Frame: **Annual**

ONE of the following screening tests is required each year:

- **Tuberculin Skin Test (TST)**
The CDC's two-step protocol (described below) must be used for the initial screening. Subsequent annual screening can then be performed using the one-step protocol.
- **QuantiFERON-TB Gold Plus (QFT-Plus) Test**
- **T-SPOT.TB Test (T-Spot)**

A two-step TST involves an initial TST that is placed and reviewed within 48-72 hours of placement, followed by a repeat TST that is placed 1-3 weeks later and reviewed within 48-72 hours of placement. The TST must be performed and read by a licensed healthcare provider. Only the TST requires two-step testing; neither of the TB blood tests require two-step testing. Initial TB screening should be valid for the majority of the first year after matriculation and must be updated regularly to remain in compliance. Please note that TB blood tests are not affected by the BCG vaccine. Prior BCG vaccination does not preclude the need for testing. If you have a history of a positive TB test, you must submit a chest x-ray report. Chest x-rays are valid for 1 year and will need to be repeated annually. Information about how to perform and interpret the above tests can be found on the CDC website at <https://www.cdc.gov/tb/testing/index.html>.

Required Proof of Immunity

HEPATITIS B

Time Frame: **Every 5 Years**

Proof of adequate serological immunity to Hepatitis B is required. This must be provided through submission of a **positive quantitative surface antibody (anti-HBs) titer for hepatitis B**.

The following must be completed for any individual who cannot demonstrate immunity to Hepatitis B (i.e., non-immune or equivocal titer):

- Receive a 2-dose series of Heplisav-B with the doses separated by at least 4 weeks (preferred) or a 3-dose series of Recombivax HB or Engerix-B (given at 0, 1, and 6 months)
- Obtain a quantitative hepatitis B surface antibody (anti-HBs) titer 1-2 months after the final dose

Required Proof of Immunity (cont.)

MEASLES, MUMPS, RUBELLA (MMR)

Time Frame: **Every 5 Years**

Proof of adequate serological immunity to measles, mumps, and rubella is required. This must be provided through submission of a **positive quantitative IgG titer for measles, mumps, and rubella**.

Measles & Mumps

The following must be completed for any individual who has not received the MMR vaccine or who cannot demonstrate **immunity to measles or mumps** (i.e., non-immune or equivocal titer):

- Receive 2 doses of the MMR vaccine at least 28 days apart
- Obtain a quantitative IgG titer 1-2 months after the final dose

Rubella

The following must be completed for any individual who has not received the MMR vaccine or who cannot demonstrate **immunity to rubella** (i.e., non-immune or equivocal titer):

- Receive 1 dose of the MMR vaccine
- Obtain a quantitative IgG titer 1-2 months after vaccination

VARICELLA (CHICKENPOX)

Time Frame: **Every 5 Years**

Proof of adequate serological immunity to varicella is required. This must be provided through submission of a **positive quantitative IgG titer for varicella**.

The following must be completed for any individual who has not had chickenpox (varicella), has not received the varicella vaccine, or who cannot demonstrate immunity to varicella (i.e., non-immune or equivocal titer):

- Receive 2 doses of the varicella vaccine at least 28 days apart
- Obtain a quantitative IgG titer 1-2 months after the final dose

Documentation of immunization for hepatitis B, measles, mumps, rubella, or varicella will not fulfill this requirement. Although the CDC may consider prior vaccination as acceptable evidence of immunity, clinical sites still require that students provide proof of immunity through a positive titer as outlined above. Titers are valid for 5 years from the date they are drawn and must be valid for the duration of the program. Any titer that will expire during the didactic or clinical years should be redrawn prior to the start of the program.

Required Vaccines

TETANUS, DIPHTHERIA, PERTUSSIS (TDAP)

Time Frame: **Every 10 Years**

A Tdap booster must have been received within the last 10 years. A copy of the vaccination record with administration date is required. The vaccine must be Tdap (Td will not be accepted to fulfill this requirement).

INFLUENZA

Time Frame: **Annual**

Must receive one dose annually for the current flu season.
A copy of the vaccination record with administration date is required.

COVID-19

Time Frame: **Annual**

Must receive one dose annually or as recommended by the CDC.
A copy of the vaccination record with administration date is required.